

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1-5, 7, 8, 19, 20, 28, and 29. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 17-21, 28-31 and 37-46 are presently pending in this application. Claims 12-16 and 32-36 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully request further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the provided remarks.

Claims 1-9, 17-21, 28-31, and 37-46 were rejected by the Office under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In light of the provided claim amendments, Applicant suggests that the rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is hereby respectfully requested.

In light of the provided claim amendments and request for continued examination, Applicant requests reconsideration based on the provided amendments. The claims of the present invention have been further clarified to provide a high throughput screening method using inverse screening of identifying and isolating protein affinity ligands that bind to individual proteins through the use of comparative mass spectrometry. In particular, the present invention provides a method of "inverse screening", which allows for the screening and targeting of various proteins, either individually or in a mixture. The present invention further provides a benefit over traditional screening methods wherein the specific proteins are targeted in the present application even when provided in an unpure form. Although not explicitly recited in the claims, Applicant suggests that the present invention provides a method of creating an experimental tool wherein protein affinity ligands are identified and screened for through the use of comparative mass spectrometry based characterizations, as demonstrated in step (e) of amended Claim 1.

Applicant suggests that based on the above provided remarks the Office's rejection has been overcome. Applicant requests reconsideration.

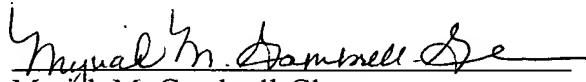
App. No. 09/582,971
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CONCLUSION AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all claim rejections are respectfully requested. Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions or would like to discuss any matters in connection with the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (248)203-0766 or mgambrellglenn@dykema.com.

Respectfully submitted,



Myriah M. Gambrell-Glenn

Reg. No. 46,720

DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC

39577 Woodward Avenue Suite 300

Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304

Ipmail@dykema.com

Customer No. 26,127

Attorney for Applicant(s)

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